

## Sisters' S. C. E.

### CONSECRATED WOMANHOOD.

BY MRS. WILLIAM H. WAIT.

There has never been a time in the history of the world when woman was talked and written about as she is to-day. Woman's sphere, instead of being confined within the four walls of her home, is bounded by no limits, and qualification, not sex, is the measure which weighs applicants for professional as well as business life. The world is beginning to realize that brains are brains, whether the head that holds them be masculine or feminine. The doors of opportunity stand wide open for the welcoming of woman, and many noble women are entering fields hitherto unexplored by their sex.

But while all this is true, and women all over the world, but especially in America, are showing such marked ability to live in this clearer atmosphere of justice, still a cloud can be seen in the clear sky by those who carefully scan the horizon. It is the cloud of worldliness which will some day break in a fearful storm over this fair land of ours unless it is dispelled in its infancy by the sun of consecration.

By worldliness is not meant that love of dress and "pretty things" which we inherit from Mother Eve, and which is one of woman's strongest weapons when rightly used, but the materialistic way of living which the "latter day woman" has adopted—the lack of consecration. To meet a woman whose life is not consecrated to God—and her home, if she have one—is as disappointing as to find a rose without its perfume. She may be beautiful and dazzling, may fill a place on life's rose tree, but that subtle something which we expected to find, and which gives us the greatest delight, is wanting, and we turn away disappointed. She may occupy the highest place on the bush, but we turn to admire a lower but more perfect rose. A woman who does not take God as one of the factors in her daily life is worse than forgetful, for what would her life have been if He had not sent His only Son into the world?

What is the life of women in lands where Christ's name is unknown? Has she ever risen above the level of the brute in nations who know not God? Only her life can pay the debt of gratitude which she owes to her Maker, and living for God is often as great a triumph as dying for Him.

At the present day it seems to be a fad,

born of a mistake, overanxious craving for notoriety and honor, that makes some women yearn to make themselves conspicuous, forgetting that the hollyhock is a more gorgeous, yet less appreciated, flower than the violet. They seem to think that "honor for women" is a new cry in this the last of the nineteenth century, whereas the dear old book which served as a guide to our grandmother's grandmothers places women on honor's pedestal and crowns her with heaven's laurel—motherhood. Can the women who are trying to wipe out the inspired volume, substituting the Woman's Bible in its place, hope to give women any more exalted position than that of the mother of our Lord? Can they honor her more than by making her the first witness of Christ's resurrection and the first messenger of the glad news? From cover to cover the Bible teems with woman's praise; no age, no social condition is forgotten. From the Virgin Mary in her fresh, young girlhood to the aged prophetess Anna; from the Queen of Sheba in the splendor of her court to the widow whose mite earned for her everlasting fame; from Vashti in her strong consciousness of right to Mary Magdalene, penitent and sorrowful, is woman not honored a hundredfold? Is there any limit placed on her possibilities? Can you find any signboard in the Bible saying, "Thus far shalt thou go, but no farther?" Instead of being fetters which bind her, this grand old book is the gateway through which womanhood gains her freedom, bearing with her the stamp of God's approval, who puts into her hands the training of His human buds—the children—but not limiting her powers to the home if she has time and strength to give to the outside world after her first and holiest duty of home-maker is fulfilled. The world is just beginning to give to woman the opportunity which she has longed for; but it is not a new idea to be inserted in the Bible, for it has been there all the time. Even this wonderful end of the nineteenth century cannot teach God anything new. As the world awakens more and more to woman's place in the Creator's plan, is not the need of consecrated womanhood more and more urgent? If our grandmothers needed to live near to God in the round of daily home duties, how much more does the woman of to-day need Him in the multiplicity of her many cares? How much more does she need to have her lamp of life filled with the oil of prayer, and if, as the days come and go, we find our lives hidden with Christ, we whose boundary is home may lose some of the feverish unrest and discontent which is a sad and characteristic of modern

womanhood; and we may find that, in order to serve him.

"The trivial round, the daily task,  
Will furnish all we ought to ask:  
Room to deny ourselves a road  
Leading daily nearer God."

—*Christian Advocate.*

### FROM DUNLAPS, IND.

As there has been no report from our S. S. C. E. of Dunlaps for some time we concluded to let you know what we are doing. The work is moving along nicely. Our business meetings are held the (3rd) third Tuesday evening of each month.

At our last meeting the following officers were elected:

President, Alice Bemenderfer.

Vice President, Cora Miller.

Secretary, Effie Riggie.

Treasurer, Belle Himebaugh.

We hold our work meetings on Wednesday and do whatever we can find to do. Such as making clothing, sewing carpet rags, etc., etc. And when we have no work we meet and make articles to sell. We have our devotional services at 3 P.M. and feel greatly encouraged by the interest manifested by our sisters, friends and neighbors.

Last Wednesday the Society met at Sister Clines to make articles to sell. Among the articles are clothes pin aprons, pin cushions, paper-flowers, etc., etc. We have a great demand for the pincushion, or ironholder which is in the form of a chickens head and breast. No doubt many of the sisters saw them at our last Conference at Ashland. We will send a sample and pattern for 10 cents in silver 2cts stamp. These are ornamental as well as very useful. Also the clothes-pin apron has had a good sale. We will send sample and pattern of the apron for 25cts in silver and 12cts in stamps to any society—providing our Editor and president are willing. We would be pleased to have other Societies to do the same, and in that way we could exchange ideas and plans of work, which would enable us to become more successful.

We think the S. S. C. E. an organization in which much good may be accomplished if used in the right way. We know that in our community its influence is noticed on every hand.

God bless the S. Society where ever they may be and may it be the means of bringing many souls to Christ.

EFFIE RIGGLE.

HATTIE V. CLINE.

If we would bring a holy life to Christ, we must mind our fireside duties as well as the duties of the sanctuary.